



State of Arizona
Department of Education

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Special Education Monitoring Alert



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Alert to Special Education Directors: Exceptional Student Services is Revising the Monitoring Process

With the start of the 2009-2010 school year, Exceptional Student Services (ESS) will be implementing a two-year revision to the special education monitoring process. With the ever-increasing importance of data in our world, monitoring will be even more data driven than in prior years.

Beginning this year, we will be reviewing data for all Public Education Agencies (PEAs) every year. The data will include results on indicator data reported to SAIS, Annual Special Education Data reporting, PEA Determinations, Dispute Resolution findings and correction, and annual site visit data as it relates to the OSEP compliance indicators for initial evaluation timeline and high school transition. The results of the data review will determine what additional monitoring activities a PEA will be required to complete. Some may be doing self-assessments related to data that did not meet the State target, while others may have an on-site monitoring if the data showed system-wide issues. For those PEAs with data that met all the State targets, PEA Determinations at Meets Requirements, and few findings related to complaint investigations, the data review will be the main activity of the monitoring.

ESS also has changed how we identify a "finding" of noncompliance in monitoring. While most line items are still in place, they have been grouped under a heading that constitutes the finding that will be reported. In doing this, we have reduced the number of findings reported to OSEP from more than 100 to 19 total. This will make oversight more manageable and allow for more effective teaching of the special education process to staff in schools.

If you are a PEA in year three of the monitoring cycle, your program specialist will be contacting you to meet and explain these changes. In addition, ESS will be meeting with directors from around the State throughout the spring and into the start of the next school year. We believe monitoring will be even more meaningful once these changes are in place and we look forward to showing you the new process.